Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-109
Tuesday
7 June 1988

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FBIS-LAT-88-109 *7 June 1988*

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Bolivian Addresses Havana Nonaligned Meeting

PY0506211488 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
29 May 88 pp 1, 8

["Text" of speech by Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal before representatives of the Group of 77 in Havana, Cuba—date not given]

[Excerpts] On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean member countries of the Nonaligned Movement, I have the honor and happy privilege of acknowledging the very appropriate election of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca as president of this first special ministerial meeting of the Disarmament Coordinating Bureau, meeting in this beautiful land of Jose Marti. He deserves all our trust and support, because his well-known capability and calm intelligence guarantee the success of this conference and the best possible results from the discussions on the world crisis, especially on the issue of disarmament, which is so closely linked to the future of peace, life, and development for all human beings. These decisions will form the framework for action by the nonaligned countries. [passage omitted]

The insane arms race has been the source of new ideas and plans for death and destruction, extending the battlefield even to outer space.

Latin America and the Caribbean and the Nonaligned Movement urgently call on the world powers to ponder this danger, which consumes enormous amounts of money. These resources could be channeled into an international fund designed to fight the poverty shared by two-thirds of the world population. [passage omitted]

Mr President, Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the moral strength of the 100-nation movement, must recover their position of nonalignment and strengthen it, to be able to act with decision and be a participant in the continual decisionmaking process that is inspired by ideological pluralism, solidarity, and the mutual support of Third World countries. [passage omitted]

Mr President, disarmament, peace, and development will not be achieved as long as the sovereignty of nations is the object of aggression, threats, sanctions, and foreign interference. Our region still shows the scars of injustice and wars. Latin America and the Caribbean have to overcome these situations before they can become zones of peace, progress, and well-being.

I am talking about Argentina's sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, about peace and self-determination for Central American countries, and about Bolivia's right to recover a sovereign, free, and continuous outlet to the Pacific Ocean after 109 years of Chilean usurpation of the Bolivian sea coast.

Mr President, honorable delegates, nonalignment is vital for disarmament, detente, and peace. Let us fight for a new internatinal economic order with the strength that the unity of our movement offers, inspired by the rights and desires of our peoples, so that each new morning is not the beginning of new uncertainty.

Cuba

Police Put Down Protest by Political Prisoners

FL0706122288 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 7 Jun 88

[Text] Human rights activists in Cuba reported an incident in which a protest by political prisoners was put down by police on May 30th.

Inmates of the Combinado del Este Prison east of Havana, some of whom had been in confinement for over 20 years, discovered listening devices in their cells. When they protested, they were, according to the report, severely beaten by guards and police. Six were hospitalized.

Castro To Be Invited to Debt Congress in FRG

FL0606211088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 6 Jun 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, will be invited to attend a congress on the crisis of the foreign debt which will be held in West Berlin.

Representatives from a West German group for development, (Duco), will invite Fidel. They said that he has been very clear in showing that payment of the foreign debt prevents the development of the Third World and that the debt is actually uncollectible.

The congress will be jointly hosted by (Duco) and the West German ecological group the Greens. The meeting will be held from 27 to 30 December 1988 and will coincide with the annual conference of the World Bank and IMF, which will also be held in that same city.

Sources close to (Duco) said that the objective of the congress on the foreign debt is to show how the (?reserves) of financial institutions endanger the democratic structures of underdeveloped nations.

Castro Closing Remarks at Cooperatives Meeting

FL0106151288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 28 May 88

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the close of the third national meeting of cooperatives held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana; date not given—recorded; part three of the three-part special program "We Are Forging the Future"]

[Text] [Applause] I don't know if you intended to continue this discussion. It was assumed that I would say a few words. I think I'm saying them now. [laughter, applause] I think that I am saying them now; I do not want to... [applause]

I don't have that much more to say. It's true. I think that these reasons, these thoughts [words indistinct] that we have been discussing. I was thinking about that here, and it is reflected in my closing remarks.

We haven't just been discussing cooperatives here. We've been discussing matters pertaining to agriculture in general. Not only did we discuss matters related to peasants belonging to cooperatives, but to affairs related to all peasants. We are forging the future of the peasants of our country. The successes we are proud of are those that we are forging for all the peasants of our country.

If we speak of housing and resolving the housing problem and we want a peasant community to have schools, stores, child care centers, electricity, running water—everything needed—I believe this would be the dream of the peasants of Latin America.

They would say: We will soon have homes, schools for the [words indistinct], family doctors, running water, electricity, refrigerators, televisions, electric irons, and other things. They might even get color television sets, if the peasants could even dream of this in Latin America, in Santo Domingo, Haiti, Venezuela, or anywhere. I'm referring to peasants, not landowners.

Our peasants are coming close to the standard of living the landowners had. Many landowners did not have running water [words indistinct]. They were a little isolated. They bought themselves a generator and they had electricity for 3, 4, or 5 hours. Those isolated landowners did not have family doctors. The rich did not have the hospitals we now have in our country. The rich landowners did not have the schools we have. We have the hard sciences and vocational schools, which are the best schools in this country. Thousands of peasants have children in those schools, in those universities.

I would say that if we analyzed this and analyzed what we want for our peasant cooperatives, we can say that we really want them to have what the landowners themselves did not have. [passage indistinct] Of course television sets did not exist during the time of the landowners. Now they exist, and this is good.

The Latin American peasant does not have water, electricity, doctors, medicine, or vaccination campaigns. They have nothing.

We have reduced infant mortality to 13.2 [per 1,000 births]. This means that for every eight children that die in Latin America in less than 1 year, one dies in Cuba. Before this our peasants were included among those in Latin American countries where 70 or 80 children would die. No one knows how many died because in rural areas more than 80 children died. Many more children died. The national average should have been 70 or 60, but the rate was much higher in rural areas.

We are working toward and discussing a future that in the past would have been held by the landowners. This future will be for any peasant, anyone in the country, any worker in the country. For the Latin American peasant this would be a true fantasy, a dream. We not only want this for our peasants, we want this for our workers.

Those (?concrete) houses which were mentioned by Lazo... [corrects himself] (Elasa) [not further identified] are also being built for workers. The houses will have electricity and water, and will possibly have televisions, refrigerators, and all those other things. They will provide food for themselves, have good nutrition, family doctors, everything.

The future progress that we want for the peasants is the same type of progress we want for all agricultural workers and for which we are fighting.

We have increased housing. We need more. But it is good to confirm that in the 2 years which have gone by since the previous meeting, with the congress in between—it has been 2 years—the number of houses being built in cooperatives has doubled in 2 years. It has doubled in 2 years. As we get more iron rods—as I was saying—more sand, more gravel, and more cement... [changes thought] because they cannot get sand from rivers everywhere. They can get it from the river over there. Was it Mambito? [speaker says: "Yes, Mambito from Pinar"] He said he... [changes thought] I had some doubts because he said it cost 17 pesos a cubic meter. I thought it was a little expensive. Well, he said he could get sand from the river. I would have to compare it with how much sand from stone mills costs. Anyway, they get sand over there. You can't get sand like that everywhere. Not everywhere.

We are making many investments in the materials industry. I believe we will have the necessary materials to build more housing for you, more housing for agricultural workers, more housing for workers from the city, more housing for the entire population. We are creating the conditions. But to confirm that it has been doubled is good news. Remember that we discussed right here how much was needed, whether more cement or more iron rods were needed. We discussed the situation whereby someone got cement but didn't get iron rods, or got iron rods but no cement. All those things we discussed and are being worked on. There is more cooperation among state organizations, not only in sugarcane agriculture but agriculture in general. In sum, all these things have happened in this short 2-year period.

We have not only been discussing this but we have also been discussing matters regarding the country's agriculture in general, the needs of our agriculture in general, the needs of state agriculture, the needs from the technical point of view, the means and resources. We have been discussing and analyzing these problems, the conflicts caused by the two collection enterprises. We have been discussing the problems of the application of science and technology and social development in various areas—in sum, all those things that were mentioned by Comrade Lugo in his opening remarks and those which we have been analyzing here. This is why the meeting went beyond the framework of interests of cooperatives alone. It has to do with agriculture as a whole and has to do with the interests of the country, with people's nutrition, with the development of the economy.

I was telling you about the importance of vegetables. Doctors and science have discovered how valuable it is to eat fiber for the prevention of intestinal illnesses, including cancer of the digestive tract, the decrease of colon and rectal cancer, everything, simply by eating fiber, vegetable fiber. Of course, precooked rice has a little fiber; whole wheat and beans have a little fiber.

But there is something else linked to the matter of vegetable consumption, which is a recent discovery. A few vegetables are elements, as I said, that [words indistinct] certain toxins and chemical elements that cause cancer. It is found in vegetables. So, they are not only food. They have vitamins and minerals. The consumption of vegetables turns into preventive medicine. We were really only consuming tubers and rice; yucca, potatoes, regular rice, and polished rice.

I believe the government, the revolution, has a responsibility in this. Health is not attained by building hospitals alone. It is not achieved by building family doctor consultation offices, or buying many medicines, having a lot of medical industries, and operating on an individual because he has this or that, and using chemical products to considerably prolong life. If socialism does not work to prolong life, to educate people in their eating habits... [changes thought] I believe one of the most noble objectives it can have [words indistinct]. It is incredible that a tropical country such as ours does not have vegetables and that vegetable consumption is insignificant. We were referring to tubers and vegetables.

I am going to tell you one of the consequences. Rice consumption has dropped considerably this year. Because when people have more vegetables and tubers they eat more tubers and vegetables, especially more vegetables. They gain less weight and eat less rice. Of course, rice is far from being an ideal food. It is mostly poor food—high in calories, low in protein, and low in minerals. Polished rice does not have any fiber. About 50,000 tons of rice were sold in the parallel market during the years in which tubers and vegetables were not available. I believe that this year supplies are more or less maintained. The current level could reach 35,000 or 36,000. The abundance of tubers and vegetables is reflected in the sale of rice in the parallel market.

Of course, we have to work on all this. We have to harvest on time, care for it, work adequately, waste less. A lot is being wasted and lost. The Agriculture and Domestic Trade Ministries have to make a big effort on this. Cooperatives can collect more easily than thousands of people collecting in small amounts. All this is uneconomical. The work of the

Agriculture Ministry in the conservation and distribution of all these products is very important. They handle it in every which way. They don't even sprinkle a little water over watercress. The press has reported some criticism of the way some products are collected and distributed. There are high losses.

There is something I want to mention. I believe it is a matter of philosophy. If the country needs 40 million or 10 million of something, it cannot make plans to get 10 million. It has to plan to get 12 or 13 million. The reason is simple. A good year will yield more. But if you aim at getting 10 million you will get 8 or 7 million during a bad year. This is for certain. If you need 10 and aim at getting 10, you will get 5 during a bad year with all the variants involving the weather. If you always want to get 10, you have to aim at getting 12. You will get 10 during a bad year and you can get 13 during a very good year.

I say this because we should not be afraid of having a surplus of products. There is no problem if you have a surplus of potatoes. Hungarians, Czechoslovaks, Germans, and Soviets welcome potatoes. We can ship them out and ask them to send us something in return later. So, we have a market for what is left over. If we have a surplus of sweet potatoes, we can use it for animal feed, in liquid feed factories. It can be done likewise with plantains, yucca, anything. We should not worry if we have a surplus of a product because the population does not consume it or because it cannot be shipped to another country. We can give it to animals. For example, potato is a valuable product, expensive and highly regarded. I want you to know that in Poland the main feed for pigs is potato. We don't have to feed potatoes to pigs, but we can very well feed them our surplus of sweet potatoes and vegetables which we cannot send elsewhere. In terms of foreign currency, it is more economical to do this than to import corn. To give them the extra sweet potatoes in a year when we have a surplus is to save foreign currency. That is the currency we are looking for and working hard on with tobacco. Therefore, the agriculture industry has to really try to get a surplus. Since the weather varies so much, we can say that this year the weather did help us. It even helped us in the sugar harvest, because in past years it rained when it shouldn't have and it didn't rain when it should have, in the spring. It really disrupted the sugar harvest. Last year it disrupted the potato industry in Pinar del Rio and other vegetables in various places. This year we had good weather and abundance. But we are truly on the path to large and varied vegetable productions. I think that there will also be an increase of fruits, citrus fruits in general. We must also pay attention to the plans for and development of fruit production. Vegetables, of course, are more urgent.

However, you have already seen here how possibilities for animal feed are developed. When I left for a lunch break, Comrade Rosa Elena [Simeon, alternate member of the PCC Politburo] gave me a brief description of this molasses and there is also (?sacharea). I looked at some data. It is rich in protein which helps in the production of feed for pigs. It is especially good for cattle, for milk production. With a dose of that, a cow can easily produce 12 or 13 liters of milk. There was some interesting data which shows that with 100,000 arrobas of sugarcane, approximately 450 tons of molasses can be extracted. I was wondering why 100,000 arrobas of dried sugarcane produce almost 10 tons of sugar, and yet 100,000 arrobas of cane only produce 450 tons. Let me make a small computation here. Let's see, yes that's right. The quantity of feed this produces really caught my attention. It could have even more protein than corn. This is why scientific research is so important. Just imagine that you have 100,000 arrobas of sugarcane and you extract from it 450 tons, or only 400 tons, if you wish. This means approximately 9,000 quintals of corn. Look for 9,000 quintals of corn in a caballeria of land. Look for 500; I won't even say 9,000. Look for 500 quintals. If we had a production of 500 quintals of corn per caballeria, we would have to grow it. We don't have a lot of land to grow corn. We have a larger production of sugarcane than corn. If corn could give us a production of 1,000 or 1,200 quintals, you could say let's look for 1,000 caballerias to get 1 million quintals. But our climate here is not for corn. Our climate is for sugarcane.

There is not a plant in the world that absorbs more solar energy than sugarcane. That enormous green mass of leaves, through photosynthesis, absorbs solar energy and turns it into sugar. It is another form of energy. But note that 100,000 arrobas of sugarcane are 10 tons of sugar per hectare; I am talking about hectares. One caballeria of sugarcane produces 2,500 to 3,000 quintals of sugar. How much does a caballeria of corn produce? If you use sugarcane whole as is, mill it, and turn it into one of these dehydrated products, you will get 9,000 quintals. I am basing this on the data in this study because they refer to 400 tons; 8,000 quintals of a feed rich in protein.

Can we or can we not raise pigs? Can we or can we not feed cows? The cows in our country do not produce twice as much because they don't have enough feed. I want you to know that if cattle were well fed, we could produce twice as much milk. Our cows have the genetic potential to produce much more milk, but they are lacking feed. Just imagine if we could produce 100,000 arrobas with the figures that we were talking about here. Many of you engage in dry farming. I will not ask of the workers of the Nicaragua enterprise that you produce 100,000 arrobas by dry farming. However, with all the water from the Nipe River that we are bringing there, and with all the water from the Melone Dam, on the Mayari River, that we are going to bring to that whole valley, we can increase the area for sugarcane with irrigation to see if we can have 2 out of every 3, or at least 1 and 1/2 out of every 3, and then we can produce the 100,000 arrobas. [sentence as heard]

Just imagine: If we designate the equivalent of, let's say, 700 or 800 million arrobas to this kind of feed, how many tons will we produce? The equivalent of 1 million tons of sugar. We turn it into this and get the equivalent of 3 million tons of animal feed, rich in protein, to mix in part with what we use now, or use as is. This information which was brought up here has, I think, great importance.

It means that agriculture and the Academy of Sciences must really give priority to this research and tell us that with 100 arrobas this can be done. A cow produces so much milk. We have here the data on milk.

I was saying that if the animal had the potential for 14 liters, production was a bit lower. If the animal had a potential of 10 or 12 liters, it could easily produce that. That is, if the cow has the potential. All cows need to be fed in order to produce milk. There are a lot of cows producing 3 or 4 liters that, with feed, could be producing 10 liters. That is the truth.

But I give you the example of the equivalent of 1 million tons of sugar. The sugarcane that is needed comes to 750 million arrobas. When allotted to this kind of feed, this means over 3 million tons of feed. This is no longer to look for vegetables; this is to look for animal proteins, milk, and meat, getting out of sugar production.

We are not as lucky as Argentina with its huge pampas which can accommodate tens of million head of cattle. We are not a cereal country or a corn country. We are a sugarcane country. When our caballerias yielding 100 arrobas can produce food such as this one, then we would have solved a fundamental strategic problem which is to provide good nutrition for our people. I believe more food would then be available at work site lunch rooms, school lunch rooms, and all those places. There would be more meat and more of some of the products that are limited.

All chicken produced here comes from abroad; that is corn, soy, and everything else comes from abroad. We could not start eliminating cane to plant these products. There is not enough land. But if we, instead of getting 50,000 or 55,000 arrobas, got 100,000 arrobas per caballeria, we could have—because we use 150,000 caballerias for sugarcane—if we got 100,000 arrobas per caballeria every year, what couldn't we get? What couldn't we get? [repeats himself] See if it is worth it or not. [Name indistinct] and everyone else and the comrades who are working in Camaguey have to learn about this research. What kind of machine is needed to produce this molasses? Should we manufacture it at sugar mills or should we set up some mills in sugarcane areas or cattle areas? Of course, if we use sugar mill grinding to get the liquid and fiber from it, we are going to affect sugar production. But what does the country need to do to start developing the production of this food which is derived from sugarcane? We could say it is something we have always been dreaming about. We already got torula, molasses, and protein molasses, but there is no doubt that if it has the protein percentage it is claimed to have and if 100,000 arrobas can yield 400 tons, then I believe it is worthy of our attention. Because this is related to the rest of what we were saying, of elevating... [changes thought] Do any of you doubt that we can produce 100,000 arrobas per caballeria? Does anyone doubt it? You who are peasants, do you doubt it?

There are dry farming places that are yielding more. I am talking about what can be done with land that is irrigated 50 percent of the time. It could be more. I was telling some comrades, when they told me we had to use 4,500-5,000 cubic meters of water, that if I get 2,000 cubic meters of water for irrigation, I can guarantee a good sugarcane production. I am not going to use it in May, June, or July. But sugarcane that is cut in February, that is cut in February, [repeats himself] if you can prepare the land, fertilize it, and irrigate it with 40 millimeters of water, cane immediately begins to sprout again. If you add another 40 millimeters, it continues to grow. If between February and May you have irrigated it five times, five times [repeats himself] with 40 millimeters, when spring comes with its sun, heat, and sometimes more water than needed—because we can't do anything with [words indistinct] rained 100 millimeters—how much can you use from 100 millimeters of rain unless dams collect it? Rains are not very useful. But if in May, the cane, instead of being like this, is 1 meter tall, it already has foliage. When the May sun and rain come, cane begins to use up the solar energy and begins to maximize the water it received during those months. What is really needed is that it have foliage and not just three leaves. If it has three leaves, even if it rains a lot in May, it cannot use it much. If it has foliage, it starts using the rain in June, July, and August. But if in February, when it is cut, it has been irrigated five times with 40 millimeters of water, even if it does not rain at all, cane has a lot of leaves when spring rains come.

This is why the amount of irrigation is so relative. Some say I have to irrigate with such and such an amount. It depends on many things. Not much irrigation has to be used in Vertientes, more will have to be used in northern Oriente, more will have to be used in Guantanamo, maybe more will have to be used in some areas north of Las Tunas, and less in the south. I believe that... [changes thought] This is an old idea, but it was abandoned, forgotten. All these tragedies have happened, time has been lost. But now we are boosting all this, and there is talk of reviving waterworks projects, of concrete plans—we did talk here of concrete plans—to triple the capabilities for crop irrigation mainly for plantains and citrus. We can do it even if we have to quadruple it. It is not that expensive.

I believe we have been discovering good working methods. You have shown here with your reports how the number of unprofitable cooperatives is decreasing. You are discovering the factors that determine nonprofitability.

I am sure that ultimately there will be very few unprofitable cooperatives left. Behind every unprofitable center, we will always find subjective factors—poor organization, poor management, poor investments, poor discipline, poor working spirit. We will find workdays only 4 or 5 hours long. We will see all of these problems—underutilization of the work day, few days worked each month, etc. You will see all that. Poor use of resources, etc.

Where truly objective factors exist, we can deal with the problems other ways, as we have done in the past. Solutions can be found.

I see good prospects for all branches of agriculture. I really do. The comrades from the Escambray talk about their coffee and about what they are doing, and how they're profitable over there on the mountains, planting plantains, etc. Coffee got the best prices. So did cacao. In particular, they are receiving a lot of the country's resources there on the mountains. Don't forget that in addition to all this, there's a crash development program for the country's mountainous areas called the Turquino plan. It is taking progress, civilization, development, housing, doctors to them, to all the mountainous areas.

I see good prospects for agriculture. There might be prices to be adjusted, some upward, and others downward. As we have seen here, this comes as a result of the problems that some excessively high incomes are creating for us. I would not worry if it were the cooperatives and if they were distributed more or less equitably: give this one a caballeria, this other four, another five, and another one two. But it does worry me that some of the prices might give rise to excessive incomes with small amounts of land and with the abusive employment of outside labor.

When objective problems arise and we can do something about them, we will do everything to resolve them. Some are more difficult than others. We were discussing it here. I got the firm impression that tobacco is requiring a lot of effort per caballeria. I am no longer questioning whether it may be fair for the peasants. With more or less fair prices, by doing a good job, with a big effort, all this could be useful.

What I am questioning is whether the country should depend on certain forms of cultivation which demand so much labor, so many human resources, in addition to material resources. This is no longer really in line with the development the country has achieved. That's why I say that, not right away but some day, we are going to have to find the solutions. Of course, this is within certain limits. There is a limit, and this is domestic consumption. I believe that there is another limit: that's the export of twisted tobacco. But aside from that, we are going to see how far this can be sustained. Only on the basis of patriotism, patriotism, and patriotism to the end. Twenty years.

I believe we have many possibilities to seek resources and develop wealth. I so stated here with all honesty, without the fear that we might be without tobacco next year. I don't think we should have any fears. We are going to have to keep asking. We have to pay more attention to this problem.

I see good prospects for agricultural development, good economic prospects for the cooperatives. In general, we should also draw the lesson... [corrects himself] draw the conclusion that there is a great deal to be done in the area of state agriculture. A great deal. We were talking here of paperwork, bureaucracy, excessive personnel, a lot of things that cost money and are hindrances. It was good to discuss that here. I believe that the comrades working in agriculture will have to ponder all this.

As I said, this must not be done overnight. It can't be done. However, we have to start looking for maximum efficiency in state agriculture. We must save resources, materials, fuel, human resources. If by working well the cooperative can be profitable, then the state enterprise, by working well, can also be profitable on the basis of some predetermined prices.

I am not saying that the sugar industry has to do it no matter what. Sugar prices are generally low for the sugar industry. When you realize the cost of the sugarcane, etc., profitability is not so easy. The price is less than 8 centavos per pound at the sugar mill—7-odd centavos. Today we can say that they are almost lower than the prices on the world market.

But, I believe that state agriculture must make a much greater effort to achieve efficiency. I am not talking so much about profitability but efficiency. Profitability is not always a measure of efficiency. There might be a very modern, automated sugar mill, with good soil and plenty of rain, with some profitability, but it might be working much worse than a sugar mill with dry soil that is not so modern, with losses of 10 percent. It turns out that the one with losses, the unprofitable one, is working better than the one labeled as profitable.

We have to look for the reduction of costs and for economic efficiency in production and productivity; productivity per worker, productivity per hectare, productivity per caballeria. What we are asking the peasants here is what we should ask from sugarcane agriculture, from the rest of agriculture. The 100,000 arrobas we talked about.

And we have to look for the water, wherever it is. It could be that there 's a cooperative that gets up to 90,000 [unit not specified], which might find it impossible to find the required water, the required soil. But we will have another one with 110,000, or 115,000, or 120,000. These goals that we are proposing for the cooperative farmers are the same ones we have to propose for state agriculture.

I am confident because I see the work and the effort that's being made. I am confident we can do it, albeit slowly because there are accumulated ills, accumulated vices over the years. You complain about paperwork. Imagine the administrator of a state enterprise! Imagine what he's required to do! I know that it's as big as a bedsheet at the end of the month. Figures. How many different tractors do you have? Seventeen. How many hours did each tractor work during the month? What did the other do, etc.? I know some of the data they are asked for. It's maddening. It's as if a madman were loose in an office, a madman who started imagining a world like this and how this world should function. It's not something thought up by a peasant with the common sense of those who live in Pinar del Rio. Even the one who forgot the

horse! He said he was so disturbed the day he discovered the blue mold that he left his horse behind. It could happen to anyone. [chuckles] It was really something! He ran so fast that he left his horse tied up and only remembered his horse when he got home.

No one has the wisdom of the peasant. It's just a guy in an office dreaming up things. He has not been close to the soil. He never tilled the land or anything like it. If he is young, he might have attended a rural school. Well, that might have been his only contact with agriculture. Yet he starts asking for 17 different tractors, how many hours for each, etc. Then you have a bunch of people scribbling away. No one uses this data. Someone said as much. They throw the figures into the wastebasket. No one uses the data, nor is it needed. Really, that is just an affectation, something dreamed up by a madman in an office, generating paper. And then there are plenty of madmen below him, because if he is already mad, the others will also become mad as they go around doing what the first madman dreamt up. So you can imagine: paperwork, people, etc.

I believe that for those comrades from state agriculture attending this meeting, everything that has been discussed here also commits them to endeavor to achieve the same things in state agriculture that we are asking you to do. Not all of our agriculture is in bad shape. There are many enterprises where considerable effort is made, where yields are high. There are some livestock, rice, and citrus centers that are attaining growing success. There's no question about it. No question. However, we should not settle for just that.

We know there's a lot more that can be done. It can be done and it shall be done. I am optimistic about it. I believe that within all this rectification process this meeting will also be historic. The other one we had was historic because we put an end to the shameful peasant free markets. If that one was historic, then this one is also going to be historic because we are going to plunge right into big and ambitious production and productivity programs. We will apply science and technology. That's what we are asking of you.

The state has an enormous number of engineers. If you get as much from them as the comrade from Granma did from the young lady, who's so tiny that she has to be protected... [changes thought] then the state has thousands of engineers for sugarcane cultivation, thousands. I feel we have to start giving access, chances, and responsibilities to all those cadres who can do a great deal. At the meeting of the Union of Young Communists right here, we had a young man from Meneses, a very intelligent young man who is managing an enterprise. He's already making a contribution with his talent, knowledge, and experience. His know-how! We were short of just that. Our cadres were short on expertise. The revolution triumphed and the farm managers had only a 4th, 5th, 6th grade education—I feel that it was to their great credit that they didn't destroy the country. The fact that the country survived is in itself an enormous historic feat.

Now we have thousands and thousands of engineers, in addition to thousands and thousands of experienced cadres. They're very dedicated, hardworking, and serious. We have thousands of cadres. We have a whole generation of cadres with tremendous technical expertise. The same thing we are demanding from you, we have to demand of ourselves in state agriculture.

Yet I see good prospects. With what we are doing, I have no doubt that we'll reach this 45 million [unit not specified] of vegetables and tubers.

I say here what I was saying last night at the meeting with the peasant builders. [chuckles] The materials have no choice but to materialize. I am going to say the same thing now. The vegetables and tubers have no other choice than to materialize, considering what we are doing. [applause]

For the first time in the revolution's history we will resolve our problems once and for all, with a clear awareness of their importance, with correct methods and criteria. What we have to do is to aim high. Aim high, so that we will not have shortfalls when there's a bad year, a year with a rainy spring, a year of headaches. If there is anything left over, the liquid feed factories will be happy with whatever is left over. We need not fear that we will have leftovers. I assure you that this saves foreign exchange.

I haven't the slightest doubt that waterworks development will gain tremendous impetus. I haven't the slightest doubt that we will have the necessary resources. I haven't the slightest doubt that if the initial figures on sugarcane potential are accurate, we will have millions of tons of food. Milk, meat, etc. I haven't the slightest doubt about it. We are doing some other things.

We are trying to import heavier and bigger sheep. We recently brought in some Australian sheep. The advantage is that from the moment they are weaned they weigh double what the native ones do. They have (?curly) type wool, which should not be unappreciated, because it is the basis for an F-1, an F-2. Each one gives double the meat, if we have enough pasture, if we give them that, what do you call it, (?sachariza)? [speaker corrects him] The famous molasses. Right now we are trying to bring over some sheep from the Soviet Union. They are coming via Canada. We can't bring them directly because of health problems. They have quarantine stations over there. The good thing about them is that they give birth to three or four lambs at one time. I believe they are called Romanov. That's the name the tsar and his family had. I don't know why the sheep are called Romanov, because those tsars were generally sterile. [chuckles] And now it turns out that the sheep have been named Romanov. They have three or four lambs. We

would be satisfied with three or even two. We have the first rams here already. We are cross-breeding them. We are now trying to bring the pair.

We are bringing in other things. Geese, for example. They are spreading all over the country. They tell me that they eat a lot of the famous sucrose. They have also experimented with geese. This is another way to produce meat. We are introducing techniques such as the implantation of embryos. We have been importing herds of goats with high milk production. We are carrying out a plan in Los Naranjos to produce up to 10,000 liters of goat milk a day. We have the first hundred of those goats.

There's a big project in Camaguey underway. We are recovering lands in La Serpentina, where nothing was produced before. We are going to recover some 2,000 caballerias. There are two land recovery brigades, which are recovering almost 300 caballerias each year in La Serpentina. So there's a huge plan around Camaguey. A huge sheep plan. We have brought in buffalos, which did not exist in this country. We have some herds already. We have a few thousand. In fact, we have sent them to several provinces which have lowlands.

We are also breeding shrimp, which has to do with agriculture, because the lands used are those close to the sea. A lot of progress has been achieved by the use of artificial insemination. The eggs are drawn out of the shrimp. They are working on it. They need levelers and motorized levelers to do all that work. We are working in many fronts, many fronts at this time.

We are going to make a big effort in oil exploration. We are building platforms to get closer to the sea, to go into the sea and find new oil deposits. We are building platforms to connect the keys off northern Cuba to firm ground. There are an extraordinary number of beaches like Varadero. We are going to see if we can find other sources of income so that the people there won't have to depend only on growing tobacco, which is something out of the 19th century.

We are making a big effort in construction. The mini-brigades movement has spread throughout the country with great impetus. Materials are at a premium now but the movement is getting organized and the country will undoubtedly get a big boost. I believe the country will advance rapidly. I believe we are going to recover the lost years. We are going to make up for them in a few years. I have never felt as much optimism about the prospects for agriculture as I do today. I really am optimistic and I should say so.

And this feeling is based on the fact that I have been at many discussions at various times, from the times when people with 3d and 4th grade managed the farms, up to today, when we have thousands and thousands of engineers. The times when the cooperatives were just a big mass of land. A lot of inefficiency everywhere, a lot of ignorance. A large, dispersed peasant mass. Today we have a strong cooperative movement. The cooperative movement should not only be measured in terms of the percent it produces for the agricultural economy, but in terms of the influence it exerts over the whole peasant sector. The cooperative will make it possible to incorporate that mass of peasants that is still isolated. It contributes ideas, knowledge, initiatives, examples. It can help state agriculture. The cooperative's efficiency can be a point of reference for state enterprise. In other words, the role the cooperative sector is called to play in the economy is a very large one.

In addition, it consolidates the revolution, it strengthens it, it makes it stronger politically.

Thus, we are not underestimating you in the least. I do not believe we are exaggerating when we see the importance the cooperative movement has. This is seen today. Had there been other meetings such as this one? Two years ago we were pulling our hair because of the number of things we were doing, the foolish and crazy things we were doing and mistakes we were making. Only 2 years have gone by. We held the congress. We have held this second meeting. Progress has been seen. Clear and important progress has been seen. This is encouraging. This shows that when we discover mistakes early we can correct them. We can see how when we need to criticize ourselves it helps us a lot in resolving problems. This makes us feel more sure of ourselves, brings more satisfaction, more awareness, and we understand better what socialism is. This happens when we fix the nonsense and deviations and work as we are working now.

This is why I say I had never felt so optimistic over these possibilities and am sure you will do everything in your power so that agriculture does not lag behind industry, construction, education, public health, or sports. With peasant pride, peasant honor, and peasant courage, we can develop a vanguard agriculture in the future. I repeat, I am sure we are going to achieve it, because of the seriousness with which discussions have been carried out here, because of their weight and degree of responsibility.

I was saying this yesterday at the ceremony. It really is delightful. All the comrades present were pleased. I was able to perceive a happy note, a note of satisfaction, of pleasure regarding the meeting. This is why I say, and I repeat... [changes thought] you call it the third meeting. Which one do you call the first? [indistinct response from speakers] But it wasn't like this encounter. I think you invited me to go for a short while. Let's call this one the second meeting. That was a bump and not an encounter. [laughter] I just happened to be there. [applause] Let's call this one the second meeting. Let's call it the second because it contained extensive analyses, criticism, self-criticism, everything. If not, we could say that the first one was the time in which we met with sugarcane cooperative members at the beginning of the revolution. Lugo, I believe it is better to call it... [indistinct words from speakers] Pepe [not further identified] gets nostalgic. He doesn't want that first one to not be accounted for. What do you think we should do, Pepe? Should we call

it the second meeting? Well, the world is not going to come to an end because of one more. We already named it the third; let's call it the third meeting. I have to figure it out since the one in which we met to look into all the problems and we started working... [indistinct words from speakers] Yes, it is the first one of the rectification process and the third general cooperatives meeting. [applause] It's all right. So, the next one will be the fourth meeting. Is it clear? Very well, comrades. We'll see you at the next meeting. Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

Rodriguez Meets With Perez de Cuellar

FL0606225688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez met with Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations, and told him about the recent Nonaligned Movement conference on disarmament which was held in this capital.

During the discussions, the Cuban leader informed Perez de Cuellar of matters discussed at the ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement on disarmament, which was held in late May.

The Cuban vice president and the UN secretary general said that the international situation, with regards to the arms race, is very different today than what it was 5 or 10 years ago, according to a report distributed by the secretariat of the United Nations.

The meeting between Carlos Rafael and Perez de Cuellar took place before the Cuban representative spoke at the UN General Assembly on disarmament.

Montane Meets With CPCZ's Bilak in Prague

FL0306162288 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1409 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Today Jesus Montane Oropesa, member of the PCC Central Committee, met in Prague with Vasil Bilak, member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] Presidium and Secretariat.

During the meeting the Cuban and Czechoslovak leaders discussed matters relating to the internal politics of the two countries and also some aspects of the international situation.

Ecuador's Vargas Pazzos on Need for Unity

FL0306202288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1924 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Frank Vargas Pazzos, former [Ecuadoran] presidential candidate during the last elections, has said in Santiago de Cuba that Latin America's historic moment now requires more unity among its revolutionary and democratic forces to conquer and defend the interest of the peoples.

He stressed the need for wise proposals to reinforce integration among the peoples of the region which will allow them to fight against underdevelopment and dependency.

At the conclusion of a visit to Santiago de Cuba at the head of a delegation of the Patriotic Unity of the People of Ecuador, Vargas Pazzos said the time has come for common action against imperialist aggression and exploitation.

Vargas Pazzos said that during their current tour, the Ecuadoran delegation intends to promote a Latin America consciousness to express the ties of identity with the peoples of the region.

More Than 2 Million AIDS Tests Conducted

FL2805113988 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Cuba has conducted 2,224,748 tests to detect AIDS. From these tests, there have been 226 positive results. Public Health Vice Minister Hector Terry has reported that 8 of these people have died, 33 have clinical symptoms, and the others are carriers with no symptoms.

Barbados

10 Percent Duty Lifted on Caricom Imports

FL0306123688 Bridgetown CANA in English 2210 GMT 2 Jun 88

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, June 2, CANA—Barbados announced on Thursday it had lifted a 10 per cent import duty on goods from seven Caribbean Common Market (Caricom) Nations.

Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford told a news conference the tax remained in effect in respect of Belize, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Kitts-Nevis which still have stamp duties in place.

"We will immediately have free trade—at least trade free of stamp duty impositions—between Barbados and all of the members of Caricom, except four...," Sandiford said.

The removal of the stamp duty on a reciprocal basis was promised during the presentation of the 1988 budget in April.

In respect of Trinidad and Tobago, the prime Caricom market for Barbadian exporters, the measure went into effect on Wednesday, he said. "So the countries with which...no stamp duties will be applicable, will be Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana, St. Vincent, Dominica, Montserrat and Antigua," Sandiford said.

The removal of the stamp duty is aimed at shoring up Barbadian exports to Caricom. Reviving exports was one of the principal areas addressed in Sandiford's 1988 budet.

Other key budgetary objectives were a closing of the deficit on current account to boost the public finances and a strengthening of the balance of payments and foreign reserves.

Sandiford said preliminary indicators so far suggested the controversial budget had arrested further deterioration of the economy in respect of the public finances and the general economic situation. But he quickly cautioned that "there is need for government and the people of Barbados to be very cautious in terms of what actions they take because we have to make sure that we do nothing at all that would damage the recovery process." Despite the economy showing a three per cent growth in the first quarter of the year, Sandiford said the problems addressed in the April budget necessitated "major corrective action."

Critics have been questioning the need for a net imposition of Bds55.6 million dollars in new taxes in the face of real economic growth, spurred by the low taxation policies of former Finance Minister Dr. Richie Haynes.

Sandiford indicated that "caution" was his watchword at this stage in respect of managing the local economy, saying it would be "foolhardy" to take the brakes off in view of recent unfavorable world economic conditions. "I will go any day with caution, rather than its opposite. I think we have been less than cautious over recent times and that is why we have to take corrective action now..."

Dominican Republic

Inmates Protest New Prison Official; 2 Killed

FL0606120588 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1038 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon at least two inmates, including an evangelical priest, were killed in violent incidents that occurred at the Victoria Prison. The incidents began at approximately 1415 and required the presence of the national police chief, attorney general of the Republic, president of the human rights committee, and the prison director.

The only deceased inmate identified was the evangelical priest, Justo Escalante, who was killed by random gunfire from prison police agents. The names of the injured prisoners are Roberto Brinma, Victor Manuel Carrera, Martinez Matos, and Roberto Dario Aquino.

Among those police officials and agents injured are Lieutenant Francisco Lopez Nicolas and Privates Rafaelin Castillo, Luis Felix, [name indistinct], and Maximo Fuero.

Reports indicate that the incidents began as a protest by the inmates who do not want new Police Commander Vallejo transferred to the Victoria Prison.

Hostages Released

FL0606124488 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1124 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] At least two inmates were killed during a rebellion and riot at the Victoria penitentiary. The deceased prisoners were identified as Rene Gustavo Perez and Justo Escalante, an evangelical priest.

The injured have been identified as First Lieutenant Francisco Lopez Nicolas and prisoners Franklin Castro, Luis Alfredo Perez, and Maximo Fuero, as well as Victor Rodolfo Armelio and Alfredo Bato Martinez, who is in serious condition.

The prisoners' uprising yesterday afternoon required the presence of the national police chief and the attorney general of the Republic.

Major General Nelson Morillo Rodriguez and Attorney General Pura Nunez negotiated with the inmates for the release of several visitors who were taken hostage.

The inmates rioted to force the authorities to (?follow) the legal process and to extend visiting hours. Reports indicate that the riots began when the police were checking visitors and one of them [words indistinct] with the wife of an inmate.

The police agent was injured by an inmate who witnessed the incident with the wife of one of his comrades. This caused other police agents to react.

The Victoria Prison priest, Domingo Viral, who witnessed the incidents, gave the following account: It was truly a massacre. There was gunfire of all calibers; tear gas was thrown. The place was a real inferno.

The prisoners were chanting slogans against the new prison commander, Colonel Gabriel Vallejo Vallejo.

They raised (?a white flag) and created a moment of expectation when they brought out the body of the evangelical priest, Escalante.

Jamaica

Alpart Alumina Refinery To Reopen in August

FL0306131588 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] In Jamaica, aluminum industry giants Kaiser Tech and Reynolds Metal will reopen the Alpart alumina refinery in August. The refinery had been closed 3 years ago because of high cost of operation and a slumping world market for aluminum. Nowadays aluminum is getting a better price in the world, oil is a bit cheaper, and the Jamaican dollar is not as strong. All of this goes to make reopening possible, according to industry experts.

Petricioli: Nation To Postpone Capital Payment

PA0706015788 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 5 Jun 88 pp 1, 15

[Article by Victor Manuel Juarez]

[Excerpts] Manzanillo, Colima, 4 Jun—Gustavo Petricioli, finance and public credit secretary, announced that within the new process of restructuring Mexico's foreign debt, the federal government will postpone until the year 2008 the payment on the capital of its commitments with the international financial community and affirmed that this reprogramming will not cause additional pressure on national finances. [passage omitted]

On the same occasion, Undersecretary of Revenue Jaime Serra said that in 1987, for each peso invested, more than 8 pesos of unpaid taxes [impuestos omitidos] had been detected. He added that the correction of public finances is a basic tenet of the ongoing structural changes, saying: "Financial reorganization has been balanced; it has not been achieved through indiscriminate cuts in social expenditures or through unjust increases of the fiscal burden that would have strangled economic activity."

During his long speech, Petricioli also said that the country is obviously experiencing economic improvement and that its institutions have been strengthened, thereby guaranteeing the nation's social peace and democratic freedoms.

However, he admitted that the positive results of the economic reorganization strategy have been seriously threatened by unpredictable or uncontrollable phenomena. Nevertheless, he said, the overall assessment is positive, and Mexico is prepared to accelerate efforts to achieve its most cherished goals.

Speaking of the foreign debt, the finance secretary said that the reduction of rates compared to those prevailing in 1982 has made it possible to make a significant, although insufficient, reduction in the percentage of proceeds from exports used for interest payments. He emphasized that the problem of the debt "has not been resolved." He added that we are in a better position today than we were 5 years ago and that firm foundations have been established for continuing the search for new solutions.

Petricioli then listed the 11 points upon which the renegotiation of the debt is based, the same points that were recently announced in Guadalajara, Jalisco: that the government will continue negotiating without haste, always bearing in mind the basic criteria of the Mexican people's well-being and a healthy and sustained growth free of conditions incompatible with Mexico's sovereignty and plans.

Petricioli gave a general explanation of the economic activities carried out between 1982 and the present, and he pointed out that through the use of dialogue, the coordination of efforts, and the establishment of goals, it has been possible for a country with serious problems—such as the one President De la Madrid inherited in 1982—virtually paralyzed, without resources to fulfill its most immediate needs, its credibility and credit rating seriously eroded, with deep structural imbalances, to become a different country, a Mexico that is on a secure path, a path consistent with our principles and basic values.

Petricioli added that at present, on the issue of public finances, Mexico has gone from a substantial deficit to an 8-percent surplus, which implies an adjustment in the gross domestic product of more than 15 points, a structural change that has attacked inflation at its very roots. This, Petricioli said, has been possible through a deep and persevering effort in the areas of revenue and public spending, along with an exchange rate and a monetary and credit policy that ensures economic stability. [passage omitted]

Shortly before his long speech, Petricioli said that in 1988 the net balance—calculated on the basis of subtracting the monetary reserves from the total debt—is approximately $85 billion, relations with creditors are normal, and, during his term, he has had the basic resources to work with.

Petricioli said inflation is the administration's biggest economic problem. He said, however, that 6 months after the Economic Solidarity Pact's implementation, the process of reversing inflation is fully under way and must be consolidated. To achieve this, corrections in public financial management must be strengthened: "Real decreases in spending and investments regulated by strict, selective criteria should be given permanent priority. [no end quotation mark as published] [passage omitted]

De la Madrid, Petricioli on Debt, Economy

PA0506130288 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Report by Humberto Mares Navarro from Manzanillo]

[Excerpt] President Miguel de la Madrid has said: The Mexican Government will continue to negotiate its foreign debt with the fundamental criteria of seeking the well-being of the Mexican people. It will do so without haste but with the imperative aim of ensuring healthy and sustained growth—without conditions incompatible with the sovereignty, programs, and objectives of Mexicans.

Today President de la Madrid closed the 20th national meeting of fiscal officials in Manzanillo, Colima State. Finance and Public Credit Secretary Gustavo Petricioli reaffirmed the Mexican Government's foreign debt policy and general criteria. In his closing message, the president of the republic urged the country's fiscal officials to learn from past experiences to avoid weakening public finances with expansionist policies:

[Begin De la Madrid recording] The economic experience of the past few years clearly shows that a fiscally imbalanced government is a weakened government. Its revenues and expenditures grow nominally but drop in

real terms. As a result, the state's ability to tend to its fundamental obligations and promote economic and social development is diminished. [end recording]

The president of the republic pointed out that it is indispensable to maintain permanent attention to distributing public revenues to favor state and municipal treasuries so they can in turn tend to the needs of their people.

Meanwhile, Gustavo Petricioli, finance and public credit secretary, said that despite the country's enormous domestic and external imbalances in 1982, today Mexico is experiencing clear economic improvement. Strengthened institutions have guaranteed social peace and democratic freedoms. [passage omitted]

Socialist Party Backs Cardenas' Candidacy

PA0406200588 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Following Heberto Castillo's offer to withdraw as presidential candidate of the Mexican Socialist Party [PMS], Cauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano has agreed to an alliance with the PMS and has thus become the left wing's single candidate.

Cardenas said in Papantla, Veracruz, that it is a great honor and responsibility to accept the PMS' candidacy. He said his campaign committee will meet Monday with its PMS counterparts to decide what strategy to follow now that they back the same candidate.

President Orders Public Service Streamlining

PA0606150288 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Report by Alfonso Gomez]

[Text] The Mexican Government will undertake a series of actions aimed at improving the implemention and upgrading of public services to Mexican citizens and to local and foreign tourists who visit the country. These actions also seek to prevent corruption and abuse of power. President Miguel de la Madrid ordered these measures, which will be implemented by an intersecretarial commission.

The Government Secretariat will streamline migration procedures, including the requests it receives. It will continue on a strict basis to dismiss unqualified migration officers at Mexico City International Airport and, especially, in the State of Chiapas. In addition, migration personnel not meeting efficiency requirements in Tijuana and Juarez City will be dismissed.

Regarding the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat, it will withdraw its staff from the Mexico City railroad stations and from the bus terminals located in the metropolitan zone. It will also handle complaints and charges against the General Customs Directorate staff.

The Communications and Transport Secretariat is to avoid abuse of power against truck drivers. Starting tomorrow, Federal Highway policemen will not be allowed to inspect trucks except for the inspections carried out in Tlaxclala and Guerrero States.

The Foreign Relations Secretary will attach labels to visas to prevent forgeries and to improve the stay of foreign tourists entering the country. Regarding migrant workers, all government secretaries will expedite the return of our compatriots and their belongings that are the fruit of their work.

The Secretariat of the Federal Attorney General's Office will be able to order suspensions and dismissals of public employees who commit the already mentioned crimes. The files of these employees will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office.

In Mexico City, patrols will be increased in tourist areas. Citizens can call the 08 telephone number to report car and home thefts and other crimes against property. The actions by the intersecretarial commission will be assessed periodically to correct or expand any of the announced measures.

Sepulveda Meets With Foreign Ministers at UN

FL0306220088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1922 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Report by Roberto Gonzales Perez, NOTIMEX correspondent at the UN]

[Text] New York, 2 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Today Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, secretary of foreign relations of Mexico, held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of the PRC, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Yugoslavia.

He exchanged views with them on the recent summit meeting between U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He also conveyed to them the opinion of the Group of Six, which is in favor of peace and disarmament, on the summit.

Sepulveda Amor told the three foreign ministers that the Group of Six evaluates the summit meeting positively since this is the first time in history that a reduction of nuclear arsenals is being decreased [as received]. However, he said that the finer points of the leaders' communique have to be analyzed.

During the three meetings, Qian Qichen from the PRC, Ali Akbar Velayati from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Budimir Loncar from Yugoslavia expressed to Sepulveda Amor the acknowledgement of their respective countries for the work that Mexico and the Contadora Group are doing in the peace negotiations for Central America. Velayati told Sepulveda that the

Islamic Republic of Iran realizes that negotiating processes can bring about the elimination of tensions, while the Chinese and Yugoslav diplomats showed great interest in Mexico's experience on the matter.

Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav secretary for foreign affairs, asked Sepulveda for a more extensive report on how Mexico is fighting to overcome the problems caused by the foreign debt. He also said that the government of Belgrade plans to restructure its foreign debt based on Mexico's example of negotiation and not of confrontation with its foreign creditors. With regards to this, Loncar told Sepulveda that the economic situation is one of the factors which most influences the current political crisis in Central America. He added that the difficult economic position of Latin American countries must improve because if it doesn't it will cause political and social harm to all the nations in the region.

It was made clear during Sepulveda's meeting with the Chinese minister that relations between the PRC and Mexico are at a very high level. Sepulveda, for his part, told him that economic and trade relations must be strengthened, especially after President Miguel de la Madrid's visit to Beijing and the Chinese vice minister's visit to Mexico. Qichen asked the Mexican minister for his opinion of the recent Nonaligned Movement conference on disarmament in Havana. We think that the work and participation of the UN in disarmament must be strengthened; this is the central message of the recent meeting in Cuba, Sepulveda replied.

The Mexican secretary of foreign relations told the three ministers that a connection must be made between the Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting and multilateral efforts. This must be done through international organizations which will most likely bring a very positive tendency, he added. The purpose of our joint action must be to reinforce bilateral and multilateral efforts, Sepulveda Amor said.

Briefs

New Type of Oil Marketed

Pemex, the state-owned Mexican oil company, announced it has placed a new type of crude oil, known as Olmeca, on the international market. The company reported that it shipped the first 240,000 barrels of the new product last month. The Olmeca crude oil sells for $1 more per barrel than the Istmo variety. Pemex reported that Mexico is able to export up to 150,000 barrels a day of this new type of crude oil, which, given its higher price, will bring in additional revenue. [Excerpt] [*PA0206213388 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 2 Jun 88*]

El Salvador

PDC's Viera on Attempts To Unify Party

PA0306185088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Report by Regina Canas]

[Text] [Roberto Edmundo] Viera [Christian Democratic Party (PDC) leader and culture and communications minister] has said that following the ruling by the Central Elections Council in favor of [Roberto] Castillo Claramount and his board, the legal question regarding the PDC's internal split has been resolved. He noted, however, that before President Duarte left [for Washington], Duarte stressed in a letter to his fellow party members that, over and above the legal aspects, the PDC's candidate in the coming presidential elections must achieve moral, political, and legal legitimacy.

[Begin Viera recording, in progress] ...then President Duarte appeals to us and tells us: Let us look for moral and political legitimacy, because once we have these two things in hand, judicial legitimacy—which is the formal element—will follow as we comply with the country 's regulations and laws. A dialogue is under way at this moment. Specifically, President Duarte has asked [Adolfo] Rey Prendes and Dr [Fidel] Chavez Mena to accept Abraham Rodriguez as mediator in trying to work out a solution through dialogue, because it is through dialogue that we can actually find a viable way to unify the PDC. I think this is the proper mechanism. [end recording]

Viera added that Rodriguez, Castillo Claramount, Rey Prendes, and Chavez Mena met yesterday. If they do not reach a consensus, broad consultation may have to be held with the party's rank and file. This was the Political Committee's initial proposal before its internal split, the official added.

ARENA Candidate on Party, PDC Proposals

PA0406021288 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 3 Jun 88 p 3

[Text] Alfredo Cristiani, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] presidential candidate, has proposed the humanitarian and neoliberal doctrine of his party as the most viable and rational way to improve the standard of living of the Salvadoran people.

Cristiani reiterated that ARENA's ideology is based on respect for private property and on the defense of human liberty. He said: "This is the only way we can live together with justice, maintain a state of law, preserve human dignity, and guarantee democracy."

The presidential candidate rejected the communist FDR-FMLN proposal and the Christian Democrats' [PDC] communitarian proposal, because while the former has only brought mourning and destruction to the country, the latter has begun the worst social and economic crisis in Salvadoran history.

Cristiani harshly criticized Soviet expansionism for its open interference in El Salvador through Cuba and Nicaragua and warned that the Salvadoran people are enemies of violence and systems based on enslavement.

The candidate of the majority party in the democratic opposition said that "the terrible socioeconomic conditions of countries under the yoke of communism prove the deceit in the communist promise."

Referring to the Christian Democrats' communitarian proposal, he said it was primarily responsible for the misery of the Salvadoran people, as it has only meant unemployment, a high cost of living, corruption, ineptitude, and insecurity.

On the other hand, Cristiani emphasized, the ARENA proposal represents an alternative for a better standard of living for all levels of society. The Salvadorans are now aware of the best political option to overcome the crisis, as in the 20 March elections they voted in favor of the "change for improvement."

Rights Group Condemns Death Squad Activities

PA0406200788 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Today the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission condemned the discovery of bodies bearing signs of torture in various parts of the country. The commission has accused the death squads of these murders, which in the past few days have been as numerous as they were 8 years ago. The commission likewise is accusing the Christian Democratic government of repressing the working classes.

Ungo Comments on Talks, Duarte's Illness

PA0406170488 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Report on interview with FDR President Guillermo Ungo by Ernesto Rivas on 3 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Today leftist leader Guillermo Ungo reaffirmed that the FMLN and FDR leftist fronts will continue their peace efforts in El Salvador, despite the government's postponement of a dialogue. He said talks between the government and the FMLN-FDR could not be a sham, and he also reported on the progress made toward talks that could lead to the end of hostilities in El Salvador.

[Begin recording] [Ungo] Up to now, we have found a desire to postpone the talks in the sense that the [words indistinct]. High-ranking government officials and the Armed Forces have said this is not the right time for a dialogue. Also, the government—first Duarte and then

Castillo Claramount—said it will maintain its position of first reaching an agreement with the parties represented at the Legislative Assembly and then making a proposal to the FMLN.

[Rivas] It has been reported that Duarte's illness could be part of a plan. What are your views on this and on Duarte's illness?

[Ungo] I believe those are groundless reports. Moreover, I believe there is sufficient evidence that he has a serious illness. In this regard, I think the government has told the truth to all the Salvadoran people, which is positive because this prevents false expectations. We have been listening to the medical reports, and Duarte is at a very good hospital; we therefore do not doubt the disease is as serious as the media has reported. [end recording]

Dr Ungo added that Duarte's illness is not an obstacle to continuing the talks between the sides in the conflict.

Venceremos Comments on Duarte's Departure
PA0306191788 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Now that Jose Napoleon Duarte has left the country—supposedly seriously ill—the members of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] are trying to create an aura of mysticism and grandeur around him. They are trying to [words indistinct] the legend of the great fighter for democracy.

The PDC members seem to be insulted by the doubts their opponents have concerning the departure [words indistinct] and the [words indistinct] of the counterinsurgency regime.

Beyond the merely human aspect, the truth is that when Jose Napoleon Duarte accounts for his actions before the Salvadoran people and history, he will be condemned for the deaths of over 60,000 Salvadorans, who have been killed by the Armed Forces. He was the commander in chief of that army and its main protector.

Jose Napoleon Duarte is to blame for the 1 million homeless Salvadorans, who were forced to leave their homes because of the terror caused by Army bombings and persecutions. This same Army has been supplied by the millions of dollars that Duarte requested. Jose Napoleon Duarte is guilty.

FMLN Commander on Situation in Cities
PA0406001288 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1930 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Interview with FMLN Commander Mercedes Del Carmen Letona, Commander Luisa, by NOTIMEX reporter Epigmenio Ibarra in El Salvador; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ibarra] The support of the masses is a determining factor in the war in El Salvador.

FMLN Commander Luisa is one of the people in charge of providing political guidance for the FMLN and reaching the masses through that work. FMLN Commander Letona talked to us about the progress made by the FMLN, its radicalization, and the FMLN actions that support the progress made by her movement.

[Letona] Obviously, Duarte became the political element of the counterinsurgency plan. He was a man who began talking about democratization, social pacts, and peace basically because the U.S. Government had concluded that there was not only a strictly military conflict in El Salvador, but also that at the root of the FMLN military struggle and its revolutionary organizations there were conditions that caused increasing discontent among the people.

Of course, in view of that situation, they are again alarmed, because instead of resolving the problem, Duarte aggravated it. Instead of providing a social basis for the counterinsurgency plan, he made the people responsible for the plan. He gave the people high levels of participation in that process. Today the people are protesting through an increasingly strong FMLN.

The reasons why the FMLN became so strong are clear. Those reasons are linked to a population that is permanently and daily protesting in the streets. Our people continue fighting repression and hunger and continue struggling for better wages, land, etc.

The reason why peoples movements are out in the streets protesting are the same reasons that keep our combatants up in arms. Our combatants are peasants just like the people in the streets. The only difference is that our fighters have rifles and the people in the streets are fighting with other means, but for the same reasons and goals.

In the past, they [not further identified] said San Salvador was an example of their plan. They said the cities show that things are working well, that the democratization process is making progress, and that our economic situation is improving. The current situation is a completely different one. Cities have become areas of total destabilization and the expression of the people's rejection of this government. We, therefore, call that phenomena the expression of an emerging power that is appearing in cities, particularly in San Salvador.

Honduras

EPS 'Kidnapping' of 2 Soldiers Protested

PA0606190988 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1834 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Jun (DPA)—Honduras has accused Nicaragua of kidnapping two of its soldiers at the border area, contradicting Managua's statements that the soldiers were captured after they entered Nicaraguan territory.

Acting Foreign Secretary Guillermo Caceres Pineda issued a note to his Nicaraguan counterpart, Miguel D'Escoto, and stated that military reports indicate that an EPS patrol entered Honduran territory and captured Corporal Alberto Moncada Miranda and Private Gustavo Adolfo Calix Romero, taking them and their equipment to Nicaragua.

As a result of this, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat has presented the respective protest note to the Nicaraguan authorities and has requested that the two soldiers be repatriated.

The soldiers were captured on Friday, but the Sandinists claim that the soldiers were captured in Nicaraguan territory while deactivating mines left by the EPS. The Nicarguan authorities indicate that the deactivation of mines was aimed at clearing the way for future raids by the Nicaraguan rebels who have their camps along the Honduran border area.

'Scandal' Causes Military-Congress Divisions

PA0706012888 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1657 GMT 6 Jun 88

[By David Brough]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Jun (REUTER)—Political analysts say that a scandal unleashed by a former judge who accused politicians of being bribed into protecting drug traffickers has led to a growing division between the Honduran military and the Honduran Congress.

Manuel Acosta Bonilla, an important politician who is a member of the opposition National Party, said that "there is an atmosphere of suspicion and uncertainty in the country because people are not sure who is involved."

A diplomat said that the scandal has intensified "distrust between the Congress and the military, something which had been latent for a long time."

This year the U.S. press has made Honduras the target of accusations, claiming that the military is involved in drug trafficking. Former provincial Judge Miguel Angel Izaguirre said that he had proof that politicians and judicial officials had accepted bribes to influence court verdicts on behalf of drug traffickers.

The officials accused by Izaguirre—including Attorney General Ruben Zepeda, Congress President Carlos Montoya, and Supreme Court President Salomon Jimenez Castro—deny all the charges, claiming that Izaguirre has no evidence.

Izaguirre received a great deal of publicity when he ordered a series of arrests last year on the northern coast, which led to the discovery of a drug-trafficking ring. He made the accusations last week after the Supreme Court dismissed him from his judicial post in the northern port of Tela for violating judicial procedures.

Izaguirre, who is referred to as "Rambo" in the local press, has posed for newspapers carrying a submachinegun and says that he needs to protect himself against possible reprisals from drug traffickers.

On Wednesday Deputy Nicolas Cruz Torres, who is among those accused by Izaguirre, told the Honduran Congress: "(Izaguirre) licks the military's boots."

He said that Izaguirre hopes to weaken democratic institutions in Honduras with the support of the military. Armed Forces spokesman Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, after denying that the military is encouraging Izaguirre's accusations, released figures on Friday showing that there have been no convictions for marijuana and cocaine smuggling in the past 4 years in Honduras, despite 289 arrests made by the Military Police.

Analysts said that the Armed Forces have released these figures as a way of going on the offensive toward politicians who have accused them of participating in drug trafficking.

A diplomat said that "the figures were read to show that the Armed Forces' hands are clean in this matter."

Acosta Bonilla told REUTER that the figures indicate two possibilities: Either the police have not been able to provide enough evidence to the courts in each case, or judicial officials are accepting bribes to free suspects charged with drug trafficking.

Christian Democratic Deputy Efrain Diaz said: "Police cases have not been dealt with satisfactorily by judicial authorities. The judicial branch is subject to pressures that at times affect the independence of its decisionmaking." Diaz did not elaborate.

Analysts said that Honduran judges could be tempted to accept bribes because they earn low salaries and have limited prestige in Honduran society.

The analysts added that President Jose Azcona is already facing widespread criticism from the military for allowing the extradition of alleged drug lord Juan Ramon Matta to the United States in April. The extradition of Honduran citizens to the United States is prohibited by law.

The military reportedly delayed taking action when mobs protesting Matta's extradition set fire to the U.S. Consulate on 7 April.

Analysts said that this most recent drug scandal could dissipate rapidly if Izaguirre fails to provide evidence against the officials he has accused. Both Montoya and accused Deputy Rodolfo Irias Navas have filed lawsuits against Izaguirre for slander.

Proof that officials could be involved in drug trafficking emerged last month when Colonel Rigoberto Regalado Lara, Honduran ambassador to Panama, was arrested in Miami with 13 kg of cocaine in his suitcase. Regalado Lara, who claims he is not guilty of drug trafficking, is currently facing trial in Miami.

Nicaragua

Ortega on Economic Measures, Contra Talks

PA0606223388 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Report on speech by President Daniel Ortega at a meeting at the offices of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers in Managua on 5 June—passages within quotation marks recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] "...useful and positive factor that enriches the process of debates we will continue next week at the National Planning Council in order to make the appropriate decisions."

Asked why the government implemented measures that have not resolved the crisis, Ortega said:

[Ortega] "When we decided to implement those measures, we were convinced that they were the only things we could do under the circumstances to try to increase production and prevent the further deterioration of salaries."

President Ortega mentioned that previous measures entailed freezing prices and salaries, but a series of adjustments was required.

[Ortega] "When we talk about a wage adjustment, which was one of the recent measures, we are trying to keep wages as close as possible to prices, so that prices and wages will not be inconsistent; however, it is not our goal—at least not during this period—to equalize wages and prices. That will only be possible by increasing production. As we increase production, salaries will rise to the point that wages and prices will be equal."

President Ortega said that economic problems are related to the war waged by President Reagan's mercenaries. He added that the contras are defeated but that the United States will not admit it. He said that according to the Sapoa agreements, the contras must lay down their weapons in September.

[Ortega] "The contras want to wait for the elections. Now they are talking about January in order to buy time to see what happens with the U.S. elections and to see whether the president who is elected in November will continue supporting the mercenary forces. That is why they are talking about January."

Commander Ortega stressed that neither power nor democracy in Nicaragua are being negotiated with the contras.

[Ortega] "We do not accept that sort of questioning. We tell them: Gentlemen, we have a democratic, popular, and revolutionary system here that is different from Somoza's. It is not the system of the past, but a different one in which real power is held by the workers and peasants and in which you, too, can participate."

President Ortega stated the government's position regarding the talks to be held with the contra leaders next Tuesday in Managua.

[Ortega] "We do not feel that this should be the last meeting; however, we do believe that decisions must be made soon. From now on, we hold the U.S. Government responsible for whatever might happen at the next meeting. If, as everything indicates, no positive results are achieved, if the contras do not agree to lay down their weapons in September, and if they decide to continue the war, it will mean that U.S. policy will have been imposed. The U.S. Government will be responsible, and we will be forced to face that terrorist policy with all the force, firmness, and determination with which we have faced it in the past.

"President Reagan should realize that what he has not been able to do in more than 7 years, he will not be able to do in 7 months. He will not destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. He will go and the Nicaraguan revolution will stay. [applause]"

Further on Wages, Prices

PA0606132488 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1201 GMT 6 Jun 88

["Excerpt" of speech by President Daniel Ortega to "fundamental forces of the revolution" at the offices of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers in Managua on 5 June—recorded]

[Text] The matter concerning wages is a very sensitive issue as it is the daily problem of all Nicaraguans and because it means that they either have or do not have a specific sum of money to buy the main staples or the minimum items they need to survive like food, transportation, and housing. However, we cannot produce results overnight, and the measures will not produce results overnight, so the workers' situation will not change overnight.

I want to reiterate that the point here is that the measures set forth the basis for achieving better conditions so we can increase production and bring wages closer to prices. At this

time... [changes thought] look, at this time we will have to... [changes thought] We could adopt measures today and modify wages, exchange rates, and everything else. Those are measures we will have to adopt sometime.

However, that will not mean the workers' situation will improve overnight because they have received a wage adjustment. Workers will continue buying the same goods, but since prices were also changed workers will have some more money—literally speaking—to continue buying the same goods. However, if a worker buys a product at 30 cordobas today, and the price of that product goes up to 60 cordobas, then tomorrow the worker will need 60 cordobas to buy the same product. This does not mean the worker will be able to buy a larger quantity of the same product; he will buy the same amount but the worker will have the possibility of purchasing the product. There is where we have to start correcting the matters regarding salaries, so salaries are kept within that line, that trend, and so salaries are not left behind. [If wages] are not modified then there comes the pressure as you have correctly mentioned, which [words indistinct].

Thus, you should not be expecting that problems will be resolved with the changes in wages. Objectively speaking, there has been a change in prices, and changes in prices demand changes in salaries so workers may buy the same goods they were buying before [prices were changed]. [Changes in wages] are not made so workers can buy more but rather so workers can continue buying the same goods he was buying before.

Therefore, we cannot create expectations. It is important that you as men who are directly linked to the bases of production realize that we cannot create expectations in the sense that changes in prices and changes in wages will immediately generate a new situation. Those are simply defensive measures—defense mechanisms to face the crisis that is not going away—to create conditions to increase production. You are aware that increasing production is not so simple.

Government Demands Contras Release Kidnapped

PA0606232288 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2214 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Communique No 38 issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency in Managua on 6 June; read by Manuel Espinoza, minister of information and press—live]

[Text] The Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency advises the Nicaraguan people and the world that:

1. For the past few years, the counterrevolution, in its attempt to maintain the U.S. Government's war of aggression against Nicaragua, has developed a systematic policy of kidnapping Nicaraguan people. Thousands in rural areas—men, women, children, and the elderly—have been victims of this terrorist policy.

2. Throughout the Sapoa negotiations, the Nicaraguan Government has asked the contra leadership for reports on the whereabouts of these Nicaraguan citizens and has demanded the immediate release of no less than 1,000 kidnapped people. According to our information, those people are in the hands of mercenary groups. The Nicaraguan Government has asked the contra leadership to allow the International Red Cross to inspect their camps in Honduras to determine the whereabouts of those Nicaraguan citizens and to negotiate their release.

3. The Nicaraguan Government strongly rejects the contra report stating that they only have 60 kidnapped Nicaraguans in their custody. The contras have described those people as prisoners of war. Likewise, the Nicaraguan Government rejects the publicity stunt that the contra leadership is staging in preparation for the release of 60 kidnapped Nicaraguans in Guatemala City.

4. During the next round of talks with the contras that begins tomorrow, 7 June, Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra will continue to demand the release of the kidnapped people and a definite end to this criminal and terrorist kidnapping policy, which has only served to increase the number of Nicaraguans who have fallen victims of kidnapping.

Managua, 6 June 1988

For a worthy peace; Free fatherland or death!

[Signed] Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency

Government Suspends Radio Corporacion Newscasts

PA0406135788 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1228 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Radio Corporacion's "Diez en Punto" newscast was suspended on 2 June on charges of broadcasting false reports and thus violating the general provisional communications media law. The Radio Corporacion newscast reported that the Sandinists had admitted to murdering Jorge Salazar and Moises Mondragon, the latter after he had accepted amnesty. The station violated Article 1, Clause C of the law in question, which refers to the news media's duty to provide truthful reports within a coherent context, to act as a proper reflection of the various social groups, and to support the community's common objectives. Also violated was Article 2, Clause A, which states that criticisms of or critical commentaries on public offices, as well as all information on such offices, should aim to achieve constructive ends based on proven facts presented in an objective manner and after having informed the people involved.

The Interior Ministry's Communications Media Directorate, using the powers granted by Article 44 of the general provisional communications media law, has decided to suspend the next eight broadcasts of the "Diez en Punto" newscast, beginning the day this resolution is published.

Opposition Comments on Conflict, Amendments

PA0406005788 Paris AFP in Spanish 2205 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Managua, 3 Jun (AFP)—Today 14 opposition parties warned the government that the bloody Nicaraguan conflict will be "prolonged indefinitely" if the constitutional amendments that have been requested are not accepted.

In a declaration, the leaders of those parties, who represent a broad political spectrum, accused the Sandinist government of breaking a commitment to democratize the country, which was part of the Esquipulas II accord signed by the Central American presidents last August.

They pointed out that the conditions for democratization have been presented within the framework of the national dialogue that started in October and is currently suspended. In it, the opposition proposed 17 amendments to the Constitution, repeal of measures that violate human rights, and the promulgation of laws institutionalizing democratic freedoms.

The proposed constitutional amendments include preventing the president and vice president of the Republic from being reelected, banning the military from voting and being elected to public office, and the separation of the Army, the state, and the ruling party.

The government and the armed opposition, which is grouped in the Nicaraguan Resistance and supported by the United States, have been negotiating since March to end the 7-year war.

Panama

Solis on Tasks, Winning Citizens' Confidence

PA0606035888 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0111 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Interview with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, by Luis Manuel Martinez at the reception room in the presidential palace; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Martinez] What does your wife think about your work schedule?

[Solis] Well, she is already used to my working habits. This is not a working schedule I use only at the presidency. I also used it while I was minister of education. I also worked intensely in my private life. Of course, I worked much less at that time than I do now, because the current tasks demand much more of my time. I always take as much time as necessary to do my duty. As for the many problems in the country, the delay in their solution, or the short time I have to work them out, the answer more likely lies in the latter [as heard]. I would do the same even if I had a term of 4 or 5 years, because I think time is always pressing to meet the country's urgent needs. There is never enough time.

Thus, the way I work is not determined by the year or year and a half that I have in office, but rather by the hope of inspiring all the people around me to work in the same way, because there are very important problems we have not yet resolved. However, we will not be able to resolve them in a year, 2 years, or even 3 years, because new problems are constantly arising in our society, and a president must work them out. Therefore, this is rather a matter of conviction and devotion to a job I assumeed with full responsibility. [passage omitted]

It is true that much time has been wasted; we must admit that. There is always wasted time that we must recover. I think this occurs constantly, and we all should try to understand it.

[Martinez] [Passage omitted] The people want to know more about the educational law you helped draft with the valuable cooperation of Dr Cespedes [not further identified]. In addition, the people have said that the family code has all but been forgotten. They say that this is fundamental for the country. How do you view this?

[Solis] I would say that the two laws, both the two educational laws and the family code, are extremely important for the country. In the educational laws we have a full proposal of what education must encompass, a general outline of an educational system. It is regrettable that the Assembly has been unable to analyze, study, and approve those laws. Also, the executive branch, during the more than 3 months I have been heading it, has been unable to devote much time to this because we have been busy with daily tasks, what we should do tomorrow, the need to confront the constant aggression, and the constant changes in the attack methods used against us from outside.

We have devoted our time to gain that venue in the world that we need and that other countries have fortunately begun to give us. Thus, we have been very busy and have not had the time to coordinate a working plan with the Legislative Assembly—of course, taking into consideration the independence of this very important state office—to draft and ratify these important and necessary laws. We met and discussed these things some days ago.

We will very likely hold special sessions to tackle the pending matters, or at least the most important things still pending, including the electoral law. There will be no time to hold three debates on this at the Assembly. We think this [electoral] law should be completed in July this year at the latest to ensure that all Panamanians are well informed regarding the legal dispositions on the country's electoral process. As for the educational law, the Ministry of Education would do well to resume the initiative of reporting to the country on this law's fundamental tenets, on what our restructuring of the Panamanian educational system means and the advantages offered to future generations. [passage omitted]

[Martinez] Do you think the cabinet and your closest assistants are familiar with your style and identify with the objectives of your government? Do they cooperate with you or are you having problems?

[Solis] Generally speaking, I am finding broad cooperation. However, I am always unsatisfied. I always want... [changes thought] I always demand more from myself...

[Martinez, interrupting] Looking for the best...

[Solis, interrupting] And I would like others to act in kind, and sometimes I do not feel that they do that. When I fail to go on a Saturday or a Sunday to see my family, I do not understand why they go and do so. However, deep in my heart I know they must. [passage omitted]

I feel that I receive broad cooperation. However, (?they may resent it), and I apologize publicly for the constant pressure I exert over my ministers and other officials. However, that is my working style. [passage omitted]

[Martinez] At any rate, you will be applauded, and I think that at your age, and after having made it through an intensive struggle, you dream of the applause and the glory for having accepted the tremendous responsibility of rehabilitating Panama amid this obsessive aggression, because the United States has replaced its paranoia directed against [Nicaraguan President Daniel] Ortega with paranoia directed against Panama. Do you think this will bring recognition to you some day?

[Solis] I do not know. History plays harsh tricks on people sometimes. However, this is not important to me. I would have felt completely uncomfortable if I had not accepted this responsibility, knowing that this historic time requires many Panamanians to assume this responsibility with all the risks it entails. There was no alternative, because I think that at a time like this we politicians have three choices: to be totally indifferent to the Republic's fate, which is totally loathsome, or to surrender out of fear, or for comfort, which is even more loathsome.

Therefore, our only choice was to work for the Republic's survival and to make up our minds to struggle for a free, independent, sovereign nation with the risks this entails, with the difficulties this represents, because there was no other choice. [passage omitted]

When the question is to struggle for one's country, for one's fatherland, I feel that one cannot stop to see if one will be comfortable or not, gain recognition in history or not, or gain recognition from one's country. Maybe in the long run I will, or maybe not. I do not know. [passage omitted]

[Martinez] In any event, one cannot deny it: You are beginning to win the battle of confidence.

[Solis] Yes, I think so. We are already beginning to succeed in winning the people's confidence. However, this involves a big risk: If we do not comply [as heard], the disillusionment would be even worse, and that is why we must demand from our aides; the government; the Legislative Assembly, with respect for its independence; the judicial branch; decentralized agencies; and directors, assistant directors, and other officials permanent and constant work and an awareness of the historic time we are living through. [passage omitted]

Solis Advocates Environmental Protection

PA0506220388 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 5 Jun 88 p 2-A

[Text] President Manuel Solis Palma said that his government will support actions leading to environmental protection, conservation, and a reasonable exploitation of our natural resources. He spoke at the inauguration of the first conservationists' meeting organized by the National Environment Commission, CONAMA, as part of the activities related to the commemoration of International Environment Day.

In expressing his views on the subject, President Solis Palma advocated a national plan for environmental protection and improvement with man as the central objective "because man's development and the enhancement of his well-being and material and spiritual enrichment should be the plan's fundamental objective," he stressed.

Solis Palma also expressed his desire to strengthen international cooperation in this field in light of the obvious regional and international interdependency with regard to environmental phenomena. He added that he supports actions aimed at protecting national parks, which include the Metropolitan Central Park and those located in reverted areas of the Canal Zone and in the heart of Panama City.

"Rural and urban migration and the haphazard growth of our cities should be seen as a challenge, as real challenges we are now facing. We must face that challenge with greater knowledge, enthusiasm, and determination, convinced that if we act in a coordinated and organized way, with greater scientific knowledge and using technology and education as tools, our efforts will be successful and we will lay the foundations for a steady and balanced development," Solis Palma said.

CONAMA Director Jorge Illueca Jr. delivered the welcoming speech. Directors of government and private institutions, representatives from conservationist groups, and guests were present at the ceremony commemorating International Environment Day.

Nationalist Party Urges Noriega To Retire

PA0506194988 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Jun 88 pp B-4, B-20

[Letter from the Popular Nationalist Party (PNP) National Executive Committee to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of Panama Defense Forces (FDP)—dated 2 June]

[Text] Panama, 2 June 1988

General Manuel Antonio Noriega

FDP Commander in Chief

General:

On five previous occasions the PNP has deemed it convenient and timely to advise FDP leaders, through their commander in chief, of its views on the various political issues we consider difficult for the Republic.

Unfortunately, to add to the disgrace of the Panamanian people, many of the criticisms, accusations, and admonishments contained in those letters have turned out to be true.

Today again, in view of the current situation, the PNP deems it necessary to address you, as FDP commander, to express its views before history and to demand a democratic and nationalist solution to the current crisis, on behalf of an anguished people. There is no telling when they will violently break out, seeking to find on their own a solution to this mass uncertainty.

After listening to your explanation before the Legislative Assembly, we have reached the conclusion that the intelligent alternative in view of the failure of the talks with the U.S. envoys lies in seeking and achieving, without mediators or set terms, a dialogue and patriotic national understanding among Panamanians in the political, economic, and social aspects that will permit us to confront in better conditions the calamitous economic situation we face. This situation has been aggravated by the extended crisis as a result of the sanctions imposed by the United States.

Such an understanding must be aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. Your retirement soon as FDP commander, in an orderly manner and on a set date.

2. The creation of a government of national reconstruction, to restore the total exercise and enjoyment of democratic liberties and to initiate the reactivation of the economy.

3. The holding of free elections that will legitimize a constitutional government, with the genuine majority support of the Panamanian people.

Nobody can claim victory in this blind alley in which we all find ourselves. Any victory claimed by you, the FDP, the government, or the opposition at this time is vain and illusory, because it does not constitute a valid response in the face of national reality. No sector is in any position to impose conditions on its adversary.

The PNP believes that the time has come to set aside the existing sectarian rivalries to seek and find a Panamanian solution to the current crisis, without mediators or arbiters. You and the FDP, and the traditional opposition, have fallen into the practice—which is always onerous for national interests—of seeking a solution to domestic problems in the halls, lobbies, offices, and through the envoys of the U.S. State Department, Pentagon, and Congress.

These weaknesses must cease if we really want to be dignified and sovereign, not only in word, but in practice and in fact.

We must make the supreme effort so Panamanians can find the solutions that will permit us to overcome the economic quagmire, spiraling unemployment, collapse of enterprises, agricultural ruin, disaster of national education, and the challenges implied by the implementation of the canal treaties, among many other serious national problems.

Gen Noriega, you must fulfill your pledge to leave your post and the power you hold and aid the FDP in assuming its institutional and professional duties, so civilians can resolve the conflicts of society among all of us, permitting us to build an authentic Panamanian democracy, respectful of the people's will.

The fatherland in which we were born and the present and future generations would rejoice to see the FDP and opposition's meeting as Panamanians to find a patriotic solution to the crisis, as was done by the men in 1903 when, after a river of blood, liberals and conservatives united to found the Republic, setting aside hate and rancor. At that stellar moment, all divisionism was cast out to give birth to Panama's independent life. Today, like yesterday, neither you nor your supporters, nor those who are opposed to the regime, have the right to irresponsibly ruin that heritage of struggle, sacrifice, and sleepless nights of our elders.

That is our proposal, and to avoid futher calamities and disgraces, we hope that with our own formulas we can resolve the problems before it is too late.

Finally, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our uncertainty [as published] that if you do not take the steps conducive to achieving this national encounter, with patriotic loyalty and without mediators, sooner rather than later, the Panamanian people, guided by their youth, will rise up once and for all, to forge their splendid destiny and to design and forge a democratic republic, a just society, and a new fatherland, as reads the PNP motto.

Yours truly, PNP National Executive Committee

Olimpo A. Saez M., President

Jose Manuel Torres R., First Vice President

Reymundo Hurtado Lay, Second Vice President

Jorge Flores, Secretary General

Guillermo Rios Valdes, Under Secretary General

McGrath Urges Contribution of All in Rebuilding

PA0606025888 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Homily by Archbishop Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath at the New Panama Gymnasium in Panama City—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today we must ask God for many things: faith, love, courage, but perhaps most of all for hope, for trust that He will breathe life into our spirits and allow us to undertake the great tasks, the great challenges. What we are experiencing is trying for all of us. These are trying times that will determine the fate of our people, our nation, perhaps even the fate of future generations. These are times that try our courage as Panamanians and as Christians. It is unnecessary to describe the negative things that darken our horizons. We are all aware of them, and all of us are living through them. We are not interested in holding any groups or people culpable. Panamanian bishops have discussed all that at one time or another. We have sent our message to everyone. Despite misunderstandings and even attacks by some, we have done and will continue to do this.

Today we are more concerned with preventing discouragement, pessimism on the part of those leaving our country, the despair of those who are penniless, who have no food for their families, the skepticism of those who are relinquishing their ideals because they feel their ideals have failed them, and who run the risk of succumbing to indifference or violence, or to the highest bidder, and who end up falling into what the ancient Roman poet Juvenal said: To earn their living, they lose their reason for living.

We also want to warn against the harshness of some of those who are unlawfully holding power and would like to use it as they see fit, hindering the communications media's freedom and twisting the administration of justice. These actions constitute the denial of individual and social rights, which we, the nation's bishops and pastors of other Christian beliefs, have denounced so many times. Above all, we want to warn against something that is both the result and cause of all this: blindness and hatred, which have been generated by the prolonged divisions and conflicts among the Panamanian people, which darken the possibility of any future social pact being made for Panama's sake.

Against all of this, let us raise our hopes for a Panamanian future that will offer freedom, justice, and peace for all of its children, without exception. [applause] [passage omitted]

Let us bring hope to all, hope for a life of liberty, justice, and peace, but also a life with responsibility, social justice for all, particularly for the poorest ones who can least fight for their rights.

As a Panamanian community, we frequently find ourselves hindered, restricted by so many obstacles. There are internal political restrictions, economic restrictions from inside and outside the country. These must be lifted, regardless what their origin may be, so that all Panamanians can once again have the right to life. We hope so. [applause] We, the bishops, have demanded this in the name of justice and charity. We do so once again at this eucharistic event.

However, in the meantime, any social solution that could create an atmosphere of a truly national participation by all seems to be delayed. The crisis and its many restrictions continue, burdensome in particular to the younger ones, to families without money, to children that lack what they need to attend school. So many people are unemployed! This concerns everyone, anyone having any responsibility for the economic, social, or political welfare of the nation, but particularly those who hold positions in the current government or who are members of the progovernment or opposition political parties. They must offer the suffering Panamanian people specific reasons for hope.

May the crisis burdening all of us and which has tried us and purified us and made us grow in our solidarity not crush some of us or pulverize the economy on which we depend for a living. Particularly on the part of the rulers this means they must not only tolerate and resist the sanctions and other restrictions that we are enduring as a test of our strength, but they must also find solutions so that the people will not suffer terrible consequences now and later on, as the nation's reserves wear out.

The dialogues that are being held to resolve the political, economic, and social crisis should be held mainly in Panama and among Panamanians. The people responsible on both sides should have the freedom and respect that are required to conduct a dialogue. We beg all of them, as people of God, we beg them before God and their consciences to do all that is possible to lead us to the path of reconciliation, justice, and peace for all. [applause]

The pastors of the Catholic Church of Panama reiterate once again this urgent call to everyone. Nobody can be excluded from this task to rebuild the nation. All of us must and should contribute to this effort and make personal and group sacrifices, if necessary. [passage omitted]

Conditions for Elections Said Not 'Adequate'

PA0406042788 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Statement by Labor Party Legislator Arturo Vallarino; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] As you know, we faithfully believe in democracy, and we are also supporters of popular elections; we are in this legislature as a result of elections. Nevertheless, we

do not believe in an automatic democracy in which everything is resolved simply by casting a vote, and we do not believe in democracy just to obtain votes. We think that democracy is something that must exist every day. Before getting involved in an electoral process, Panamanians must struggle and negotiate the adequate conditions so there will be a favorable climate, so there will be the utmost confidence, and so there will be the greatest interest in participating in the elections. In short, I do not think the adequate conditions exist for us to be getting ready for some election.

Jurist Rejects Plebiscite, Wants Elections
PA0406041388 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Interview with Carlos Lopez Guevara, jurist and former canal treaty negotiator, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lopez Guevara] Why should there be talk of a plebiscite when the holding of elections in May 1989 has been promised and is in the Constitution and the laws? Why should we imitate Chilean President Pinochet, who wants a plebiscite in which only his name appears? Those are the bad things we do here in Panama; we imitate the bad things of other countries. May 1989 elections have been promised. Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, has said there is enough time to prepare for the 1989 elections. Electoral Tribunal President Yolanda de Rodriguez has said that everything is ready, and she has just issued the electoral registry. This indicates that the foundation, the electoral infrastructure, is ready for the elections. Why should we change the rules of the game?

[Reporter] Nevertheless, the opposition parties have said they will not participate in the 1989 elections.

[Lopez Guevara] That is what some say, but the citizens want to vote. They want to express their discontent. They want to express their repudiation of everything negative that has occurred and is currently taking place within the public administration. The people can peacefully express themselves through the ballot boxes. That is why the opposition and the government should promote an honest, correct, credible, and clean electoral process with crystal-clear ballot boxes so the citizens can peacefully express themselves with full freedom. We must carry out a change in a peaceful way, and that is only achieved with honest elections.

Opposition Groups Demand Transition Government
PA0406015888 Paris AFP in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Today various Panamanian opposition groups demanded the creation of a "transition government," because conditions to hold elections, which are scheduled for 1989, are nonexistent.

Alfredo Ramirez, secretary general of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Party (Molirena), said his group is unwilling to participate in those elections if "conditions to ensure a pure and honest election" are not established first.

"Profound political changes" are needed first and the military must "separate itself" from having any influence [fuerza] in the government, Ramirez added in clear reference to the majority Democratic Revolutionary Party, which is considered the "political wing" of the men in uniform.

Tomas Herrera, coordinator of the National Civic Crusade, an organization comprised of 100 opposition groups that reappeared on the local political scene this week after nearly 1 month of silence, maintained that as long as there are prohibitions on the right to assemble and on freedom of speech, and censorship, it is "unrealistic" to think about elections.

He recalled that the current Electoral Tribunal magistrates are the same ones who presided over the 1984 elections, which according to the opposition were manipulated by the government.

Christian Democratic Legislator Guillermo Cochez, another Crusade member, argued that the main issue at hand is to "fix" the political problem, because not doing so would mean overlooking the "chaotic" situation in the nation.

According to diplomatic sources, the government of Manuel Solis Palma is proposing to the international community that Latin American observers verify the integrity of the elections that would take place on 7 May 1989.

However, certain official sectors are floating the idea of holding a plebiscite to extend the mandate of Solis Palma beyond 1 September 1989.

They argue that the plebiscite would cost $2 million while a presidential election would cost $20 million and that there is no sense in holding elections if the opposition reject them.

Last week Panama's "strongman," General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who has been the main target of criticism from the opposition and the U.S. Government during the year-long crisis, said that Solis Palma is a "classy president" and suggested a popular consensus to extend his term.

The United States recognizes former President Eric Delvalle, who was dismissed by the Legislative Assembly in February after he tried to dismiss Noriega from the command of the Defense Forces.

Civic Crusade Says Activities Continuing

PA0306160588 Paris AFP in Spanish 0440 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 1 Jun [date as received] (AFP)—The opposition National Civic Crusade [CCN], the organization that for the past year has been demanding the resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, today broke its 2-month silence to say it has not been "eliminated by the repression."

CCN General Coordinator Tomas Herrera told reporters that "the only way to stop the CCN is to end the unrest" in Panama. [passage omitted]

Carlos Valencia, president of the Trade Union of Panamanian Industrialists (SIP), said "the desire for democracy, freedom, and liberty is not dead." The SIP's headquarters was occupied and shut down a month ago by the police, which accused the SIP of helping the CCN act against the government. [passage omitted]

PDC's Arias Calderon on Resolving Conflict

PA0706041588 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Statement by Ricardo Arias Calderon, Christian Democratic Party (PDC) president; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] There has been no contact between former Latin American presidents and the opposition parties. There have been other Latin American efforts, such as statements by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and an initiative by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo.

I believe the Panamanian people are in such a disastrous political and economic situation due to the lack of democracy that the majority of us welcome the fact that Latin American peoples and governments express their concern for our fate or demonstrate solidarity with us.

For these efforts to have any short-term success—because we cannot endure this situation much longer—it is important that certain points be remembered. The purpose of any Latin American effort must be to create the conditions, such as freedom of expression, for an agreement among Panamanians to take place. No one can stand in for us, the Panamanians. The Latin Americans, our brothers, can help us create the conditions for an agreement, however.

For this purpose it is important that any effort consist of consultations with both sectors: with the military, which supports the current regime; and with the Civic Crusade and the parties that support it, which promote democratization. From the beginning there must be participation by the principal sides to the conflict, and they must also participate in the resolution of the conflict.

Finally, any effort must be basic and get to the bottom of the problem, which is Panama's democratization. This means facing the issue of General Noriega's departure and facing the problem of a new professional and constitutional role for the Defense Forces. This also means finding a way to install a government that is truly civilian, that has the ability to reconstruct our country's economy, and that creates the confidence to lead us into a true electoral process.

National Bank To Pay Interest in Cash

PA0606155788 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 6 Jun 88 p 2

[Text] Beginning today, 6 June, at its 50 branch offices, the National Bank of Panama will pay in cash the interest earned by owners of fixed-term deposits.

With the payment of interest in cash on fixed-term deposits, the National Bank of Panama confirms its permanent effort to help the country return to normalcy in all aspects, and offers with specific facts a suitable answer to its customers' needs.

Public Offices To Resume Normal Working Hours

PA0406195288 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Beginning Monday, 6 June, all public offices will return to their normal working hours. The executive branch has taken this step through Decree No 40, signed by President Manuel Solis Palma and Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon.

The decree specifies that the government may authorize some public offices to function with different work schedules on the basis of well-grounded, justifiable requests.

Air Panama Manager on 'Critical Situation'

PA0606214188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Report by Dumas Castillero; passages within quotations marks recorded]

[Text] Alternatives are being sought to resolve the problems currently afflicting Air Panama, according to a statement by its general manager, Cesar Rodriguez Maylin:

[Maylin] "We have already established contacts in the Caribbean. We might begin flights to some Caribbean islands next month. We are also making contacts in Canada and Europe in attempts to open our markets, given that Panama's advantageous geographical position makes it possible to fly everywhere. We are signing contracts with airplane companies to lease their airplanes next month."

Dr Cesar Rodriguez Maylin reaffirmed that the company may close down if the crisis afflicting our country continues:

[Maylin] "If this situation continues, the company will be adversely affected. We do not believe that we will have to go to the extreme of declaring bankruptcy, but airline employees will undoubtedly be affected. Nevertheless, the company's financial status may become critical given the lower revenues, lack of equipment, and the lack of a proper infrastructure with which to counter this critical situation."

Columnist on U.S. 'Electronic Warfare'
PA0506174588 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 5 Jun 88 p 7-B

["Political Coliseum" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua—passages in uppercase as published]

[Text] The columnist of "POLITICAL COLISEUM" has learned from very reliable and credible sources that because the Americans have failed in all their attempts to obtain the resignation and exile of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], they have drawn up a "Plan of Electronic Warfare," which will permit them to eliminate the Panamanian nationalist military leader, who opposes the perpetuation of the U.S. imperialist presence in Panamanian territory after the year 2000.

Several infamous departments and federal agencies of the Ronald Reagan administration have sought to eliminate the "marked victim"—Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega—by implementing various "plans," which have failed them.

First, the indictments [preceding word in English] (formal federal accusations) obtained in proceedings in Miami and Tampa, Florida, failed. Later, the operations to kidnap Gen Noriega resoundingly failed after being planned with military personnel of commando forces brought especially to the isthmus for this purpose. Finally, the talks that were humiliating for all Panamanians were rejected because dishonorable demands were being made on the Panamanian people and government.

The latest option, the product of another evil plan by John Maisto, Colonel Matias Farias, and General Schyler Bissel, now has the goal of achieving the elimination of Gen Noriega without leaving any trace or suspicion. He would be the "victim of an aircraft accident," a victim of ELECTRONIC BOMBARDMENT.

There were three incidents during airplane flights on Sunday, 15 May. There were similar "exceptional situations" in the airspace between Punta Chame and Anton. In each of the planes, their captains clearly reported that all the "electronic navigation equipment" stopped working suddenly and inexplicably.

The three incidents, which occurred between 1200 and 1300, were reported. First, a "twin-engined" plane in which Gen Noriega was traveling reported that the "orientation," "the artificial horizon," and the "ball stick" [palo bola; accompanying diagram of a ship and a plane sending signals to another plane refers to "stick and tail," palo y cola]—instruments that permit the determination of the axis in relation to the ground—were "taken out of service." The pilot's skill permitted the plane to land at the Chitre airport.

FAP [Panamanian Air Force] authorities immediately provided a recently acquired "AVIOCAR" to be used by Gen Noriega on his mission. The captain of that airplane also reported the same "paralyzation of the aircraft's navigation instruments" in the region between Punta Chame and Anton.

The 260 airplane was then sent, and as it flew over the Chame and Anton region, it reported the same "paralyzation of navigation instruments." These reports serve as a basis for the concerns that very sensitive devices to carry out "ELECTRONIC BOMBARDMENT" are operating in the airspace between Chame and Anton. They could be emitted from a ship or another plane in flight.

The fears and concerns are reinforced by the fact that fishermen who work on the coast of Rio Hato, Anton, have reported that a mysterious "MINISUBMARINE," which they have been unable to identify, stops in that area. The "minisubmarines" are also able to emit the magnetic waves capable of carrying out "electronic bombardment."

"Electronic bombardment" is the product of a new and advanced technology that only the United States and the Soviet Union possess; it consists of "bombarding" with magnetic waves the sophisticated and sensitive aircraft navigation instruments, which are then paralyzed, making it extremely difficult to continue flying the aircraft.

To date, "electronic warfare" can only be waged by the two "superpowers." Latin America, including Cuba, does not have the electronic equipment capable of "neutralizing" this "ELECTRONIC BOMBARDMENT," which can only be carried out from a ship on the ocean, an airplane in flight, a submarine, and even a vehicle on the ground.

The new technology of "electronic bombardment" is a terrifying weapon in the hands of powerful nations such as the United States that want to physically eliminate those leaders who oppose their imperialist plans for subjugation. It is a weapon that permits them to achieve their objectives without leaving any trace or suspicion.

A series of coincidences about the deaths of true nationalist leaders show U.S. involvement in those actions. We will provide some of these precedents:

One of the worst airplane accidents in Ecuador occurred on Friday, 3 June. A 20-seat "SABERLINER" airplane crashed close to the town of Gualupe, near Quito, killing 11 airmen, including the FAE [Ecuadoran Air Force] commander, two generals, and seven FAE officers. The Israeli air attache in Ecuador also died.

The flight had begun at Taura Air Base, famous as the site of the seizure on 16 January 1987 of President Leon Febres-Cordero and high-ranking officers of the Ecuadoran Army and FAE. They were freed in exchange for the release of General Frank Vargaz Pazzos, former FAE commander.

As this column was being written, the investigators have only described the aircraft wreckage and the recovery of the "black box." All of the officers killed in this "air accident" were deeply nationalistic and supported the people's struggle to recover Ecuador's petroleum wealth for their own benefit in the face of the transnational consortiums' attempts to impose their colonializing power in the Andean country.

In May 1981, Ecuador was shaken by the death of its young president, Dr Jaime Roldos Aguilera, in a plane accident. He died along with his wife, Martha Bucaram de Roldos A., and the defense minister in an Andean region when they were going to inaugurate a vocational school in a poor town.

That "air accident" remains a mystery. It killed a young president who was beginning his nationalist struggle to allow Ecuador to benefit from its petroleum resources and to liberate the country from the clutches of an aristocratic oligarchy allied with U.S. imperialism.

It is very frequently seen that the elimination or death of nationalist leaders in "air accidents" is the most effective solution used. This is even more effectively achieved now that there is the terrifying use of the electromagnetic waves to unleash the "electronic bombardments" that render useless the most sophisticated navigation equipment of planes, ships, submarines, or ground vehicles. Years have passed and there are still comments about the causes of the "air accident" in which Brigade General Omar Torrijos Herrera was killed. Along with six other FDP members, he was traveling to Coclecito, Colon Province, on 31 July 1981.

Just a few months before the death of Gen Torrijos Herrera, the commander in chief of the Peruvian Armed Forces General Staff was killed in an "aviation accident." There is a long list of deaths of military leaders who were contributing to the destruction of the chains of slavery that are imposed on the peoples of mestizo America by backward groups in a servile alliance with U.S. imperialism.

The isthmus has been the site of several "aviation accidents" that have taken place at a time where there is violence on the Central American isthmus. At 0530 on 23 May 1988, an Aerolinea Nicaraguense cargo plane took off from Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport. The DC-6 cargo plane disappeared over the maritime area between Bocas del Toro in Panama and Puerto Limon in Costa Rica.

The remains of a plane were spotted 10 days later, floating on the Caribbrean Sea, at a point equidistant between Puerto Limon and Bocas del Toro. The six crewmembers are believed dead, and investigations are again under way to determine the reasons for the disaster, which will surely fill us with uncertainty, because it is part of this "ELECTRONIC WAR" that the United States has unleashed against Panama.

With this new technology, there again is no doubt that the plotting brains used by the University of Terror and Destabilization of Governments Disliking the U.S. Government—the CIA—are trying to wipe out the illustrious leaders who are devoted to the sovereignty of their fatherland and their people, merely because they are demanding before the world that their rights as a free country not suffer the interventions in domestic affairs by another country.

The graduates of the University of Terror (CIA) who have "doctor" degrees in destroying mankind—such as Col Matias Farias, John Maisto, and Gen Schuyler Bissell—now have the goal of eliminating leaders without leaving any trace or suspicion.

All these have "sigma lambda's" in invisible crimes and connive with the local, stateless caudillos who were unfortunately born in Panama. Later, they became "matricidal" individuals of their motherland; they have no sovereign dignity; they are miserable individuals, corrupted, dressed in "dollar green," with mentalities weighing less than a copper centavo. We want to blame them if anything should happen to our commander of peace and Latin American example of sovereign dignity.

We protest because technologies that are incompatible with our technological capabilities are being used and because we do not have the electronics for countering them.

Panama is becoming politically greater before the world as a world leader, in spite of its size, because we have a very unique Panamanian strategy with a Latin American feeling in Bolivarian style.